



STATE SENATOR

Wayne Kuipers 
SERVING THE 30TH DISTRICT

Business Update

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Red-Tape Reduction Package Headed to Governor

Legislation to implement a new processing deadline on nearly every permit or license issued to businesses in the state of Michigan is now headed to the governor. The Red-Tape Reduction Package is part of the Republican JOBS Action Plan for revitalizing the state's economy. The plan specifically targets ways to attract new businesses, save existing jobs and promote a healthier business climate in the state. The framework established by the new bills would: implement a fixed processing deadline for issuance of a permit or license; require the state to notify applicants within 30 days if an application is incomplete and requires additional information; refund the current application fee, and provide a 15-percent discount on the subsequent period's application fee, if a deadline is not met; and require departments to provide reports to legislative committees to ensure the new laws are making permit and license processes more efficient and timely for businesses.

Focus on JOBS

This year we opened our legislative session with a focus on creating job opportunities for Michigan workers. Our efforts to bolster the economy and spur business development also included bills aimed at retaining jobs within the state and promoting a healthier business climate.

The JOBS Action Plan will help our communities by:

- Revitalizing the state's tool and die industry;
- Providing a tax incentive for small start-up businesses by exempting them from some taxes during their first five years of operation;
- Reauthorizing the Michigan Economic Growth Authority to continue the state's main tax-incentive granting authority;
- Establishing a Clean Michigan Initiative revolving loan program to accelerate the clean up of abandoned brownfield sites;
- Expediting the 2002 voter-approved Sewer Bond Initiative to allow communities to start much-needed sewer projects sooner; and
- Preventing overly stringent business standards from impeding economic development and job creation.

Senator Kuipers Picks Up Award!

Wayne accepted the 2004 Distinguished Service Award from the Michigan Business and Professional Association and the Michigan Food and Beverage Association. He was honored for his continued support to small business in Michigan.





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Tours and Meetings with Local Businesses

As a former small businessman, I can empathize with many of the challenges that businesses face. I am interested in building relationships with businesses in my district so that I can hear your concerns. To date, I have taken several tours and have met with many of you; however, there are many of you that I have yet to meet. Please feel free to contact my office at 1-877-KUIPERS to schedule a tour or meeting.

Michigan Manufacturing Day Established

Senate Bill 1026 declared the third Friday in September as Michigan Manufacturing Day. Manufacturers would be encouraged to open their plants and facilities, and residents would be encouraged to visit and learn about Michigan's manufacturing culture and history. This bill became law in May and I look forward to participating in area events this coming September.

Kuipers' Manufacturing Czar Bill Vetoed by the Governor

SB 841, sponsored by Senator Wayne Kuipers would have created a czar position within the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth. This legislation was introduced with the intent to focus on creating and retaining manufacturing jobs within the state. The governor vetoed this bill even though she called on President Bush to create this position at the federal level. Michigan's manufacturing industry has been hit hard by the economic downturn and unfair global competition. Unfortunately, the governor continues to veto attempts to assist the manufacturing industry.

Senator Kuipers picks up the agribusiness award in Spring of 2004.



Senator Kuipers tours an area business.



The state Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor met at Grand Valley State University, in Grand Rapids. The committee took testimony regarding Michigan State Industries (prisoner-made products) and its effect on Michigan jobs, especially the manufacture of furniture and office-related products.

